

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
**January 11, 2022**  
**Via teleconference - 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Judy Asarkof, Tom Brownrigg, Dwight DeMay, Debbie Geltner, Warren Lyman, and Rhonda Michaud. Nick Ognibene was absent. Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard was present.

Guest: Alison Saylor

This meeting was conducted by Zoom teleconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with all participants at home. The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Chair Lyman.

The December 11, 2021 meeting minutes were discussed but not approved pending comments from Willard. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

**New Business**

1. Review of final draft recommendations of the Carlisle Master Plan (MPSC)

Jack Troast, Chair of the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) sent Lyman a draft of the MPSC Implementation Table for LSC review and requested comments by January 14 if possible. Lyman asked that LSC's comments be limited to issues that directly affected the LSC, including the proposed formation of a new committee called the Environmental Stewardship Committee, since it might overlap LSC activities.

Lyman read comments received from Ognibene, who thought that there was a lack of clarity as to how the proposed committee would interact with other committees including LSC. However, Ognibene thought that the focus of this committee, which would be on low-carbon energy sources, recycling, clean water etc. was important. Asarkof said that the use of the "stewardship" in the proposed committee's name could cause confusion with LSC but thought we should work with them. DeMay agreed with Ognibene's comments. Willard agreed with Asarkof's comment that ESC have a different name. She also noted that she did not receive a copy of the MPSC document, and that ConsCom will not have adequate time to review the document at their next meeting on January 13. She also mentioned that MPSC's maps showing conservation lands have errors and need to be corrected. She will be meeting with Troast to discuss this.

Lyman asked if the draft plan on agriculture (Item 2) could lead to a conflict between agricultural use and protection of wildlife habitat. Some members of the Cranberry Bog Working Group would like to have agriculture continue at the bog, but this is not the current plan. Asarkof said she avoids going to the bog because of former pesticide use. Brownrigg thought that the draft

plan would seek new lands for agricultural use, rather than expanding agriculture on town conservation lands.

Lyman will send a statement to Troast based on LSC member comments.

## 2. Towle Kiosk material

Michaud has been working on updating Towle kiosk signs: Towle Conservation Land description, Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) alert, and notification of permits required for use of metal detectors and drones. She will contact Kay Hurley regarding a possible list of plants, although there are pictures of some plants on the kiosk. The sign regarding bobolinks will be removed since they no longer nest at Towle Field. Willard suggested removing the comments about tapping maple trees for sap, since this activity by a certain group no longer occurs.

Asarkof asked whether the ALB sign could be a problem since this beetle can be confused with other native long-horned beetles, which people might report or kill by mistake. She suggested including a sign that mentions iNaturalist for reporting observations. Willard said that she likes the idea of including a chalk board at Towle Land like the one at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord. People could write the names and dates of bird sightings and other things of interest.

Michaud hopes to have new signs ready for the kiosk this spring.

## 3. Summary of Cranberry Bog Working Group (CBWG) December meeting

Lyman attended the meeting and said that two of three Notices of Intent are being prepared: removal of phragmites and repair of Cranberry Bog Dam #1. He said that there was no significant progress on other items since the last meeting.

## 4. Bog House maintenance – information from recent meetings

Lyman said that the Municipal Facilities Committee will be responsible for maintenance of the Bog House, and that Lyman and Michaud will no longer continue their search for contractors. ConsCom will be responsible for how the Bog House is used.

## 5. Share information on discussion of volunteer project with Dawn Eriksen

Eriksen is searching for a project that requires 40 hours of volunteer time towards the award of a certificate from Mass Audubon. Lyman and Michaud provided suggestions but have not heard back.

## 6. Habitat/Pollinators Project

### a. Information on the Garden Club project

Alison Saylor of the Carlisle Garden Club, co-chair of plant sales, joined the meeting. Native shrubs will be offered for sale from Weston Nurseries at Center Park on May 21 (?). The Garden Club wants to have a “how to choose” plants presentation. The plants offered might be nativars (hybrids of native plants) but would be attractive to insects. Regarding LSC, Lyman said they have not decided on a plan of action, but they might assist the Garden Club in the future. Saylor suggested that LSC have a table at Earth Day (April 22). Lyman said that LSC will probably not be ready to participate in activities this spring.

Saylor said that she is a Master Gardener, and they are encouraged to volunteer their time. The Garden Club has a Carlisle Cultural Council Grant but is only a few hundred dollars. Saylor said the Garden Club will be promoting a “no-mow May”, suggesting that people delay mowing their yards until June. This would help baby birds, which eat mainly insects. Last year the Garden Club established a small pollinator garden on the Town Common and would like to continue this next year. Lyman thanked Saylor for attending the meeting and said that LSC will be in contact with her in the future.

#### b. Thoughts from Walter Kittredge

Asarkof contacted Kittredge, who is botanist who formerly worked at Harvard University and has visited Carlisle several times. Asarkof sent his comments on native plants prior to the meeting. Lyman said his comments are “like a bible”, and asked Asarkof to write a bulleted version.

#### c. Information on Lincoln Land Conservation Trust’s “Pollinator Action Plan”

Lyman contacted Bryn Gingrich, LLCT Outreach Director, who has been involved with this project. The LLCT has established several demonstrator plots, but in Lyman’s opinion, has not done much public outreach except for two public meetings. Lyman wrote and distributed a memorandum regarding his discussion with Gingrich.

#### d. Project Title discussion and vote on a name

Lyman and Michaud distributed a list of possible names for the habitat/pollinator project, and asked LSC members to vote for five names, with rankings of preference. The five names with the most votes were, in descending order of preference were: Native Habitats Program, Pollinator Promotion Program, Habitat Restoration Program, Wildlife Habitat Program, and Pollinator Habitat Program. Lyman asked for a vote as to which name to accept but there seemed to be no general agreement, and no vote was taken.

#### e. Mission Statement

Geltner wrote a draft mission statement and sent it prior to the meeting. Brownrigg suggested mentioning pollinators, and Willard suggested using bullet points. Geltner will revise the mission statement based on comments received from members.

#### f. Initial decision on what LSC should undertake as possible projects

Prior to the meeting, Lyman sent a table with nine projects that LSC could do, such as a survey of existing projects in other towns, a demonstration garden, and a plant/seed exchange. Demay said he would work on item 1 (survey current projects), and Michaud said she will work on item 8 (animal/insect/plant descriptions for kiosks). Asarkof said she has lists of sources, some of which are local, for purchasing native plants, and will send these.

#### 7. Proposed wildflower plantings at Bog and Greenough

Lyman said he collects seeds of native plants and grows these for use either at his house or for donation to the Garden Club. He would like to plant crimson-eyed rosemallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) and New England Blazing Star (*Liatris novae-angliae*) at Greenough Dam and at the Cranberry Bog, respectively. New England Blazing Star, a rare species, is currently established at Foss Farm, and appears to be doing well outside of a fenced enclosure. After discussion, members thought Lyman should discuss his request with ConsCom and consult Walter Kittredge as to whether rosemallow is a native plant found in this area.

#### **Old Business**

Lyman requested that Willard schedule a meeting with ConsCom to discuss the Towle Field Mowing Protocol. He also requested scheduling a meeting to discuss current LSC activities with ConsCom.

#### **Documents discussed:**

- Proposed Mission Statement [for Wildlife Habitat-Pollinator Program] (draft), D. Geltner, December 2021.
- Possible LSC Projects as Part of a Wildlife Habitat-Pollinator Program, W. Lyman, December 2021.

#### **Next Meetings:**

February 15, 2022 @ 7 PM

March 15, 2022 @ 7 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Tom Brownrigg

Minutes approved: 2/15/22